

DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

August 8, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Members:

Lisa Bansen-Harp
Rae Leonard

Sharon Easterling* (Youth)
Ed Labbe (Elder)

Sheila Svoboda (DCFM)
Marian Wahl (Deacon)

Opening Prayer

Approval of May 9, 2017 minutes

Agenda: Additions/Corrections (none)

UPDATES:

Youth Education/Activities

- Mission trip this summer at New Wilmington (PA) Mission Conference (7/22-7/29). Kimberly Cheng and daughters attended the conference. No update at this time.
- Youth program leadership:
With turnover in the youth program leadership (Kimberly Cheng will no longer be youth coordinator), Ministry Architects has agreed to provide 10 extra hours of consulting (at no charge) to help new youth team members get up to speed. Sean (from Ministry Architects) has drawn up a calendar to help the Admin Team keep on track with the youth events scheduled in the coming months, beginning with the bowling outing that kicks off youth activities in September.

Ed Labbe will attend the next meetings of the Youth Visioning and Youth Administration Teams, with the goal of increasing communication between them and Discipleship. The two teams work mostly behind the scenes to plan and keep things running, with the Sunday School teachers and volunteers working directly with youth at the individual events. Going forward, we need a point person (e.g. a coordinator) who would facilitate communication between the three groups.

VISIONING TEAM

Sharon Easterling
Elsbeth O'Connor
Phil Keller

ADMIN TEAM

Kristin Jordan
Celeste Farmer
Scott Vollmer
Gregory Works

- 2018 Confirmation:
Jon is working on a curriculum.

Adult Education - Rae Leonard

- Sunday School update

Rae is planning an overview of the Bible: *A Guided Tour through the Bible*. Fall semester will focus on the Old Testament; spring on the New Testament. She circulated the appealing tri-fold that will be used to advertise it.

Rae will give an announcement about the classes in church on Sept. 3. Sheila will be in touch with Rae about highlighting the other Sunday morning adult education possibility as well (the Library Conversations group for parents, which kicks off the year with a discussion of *UnSelfie*, a book about teaching empathy to children).

Prayer Quilt Ministry - Marian Wahl

- Franzmann donation: the Franzmann family has donated funds to the prayer quilt ministry. They will pay for batting, backing, and other needed materials.

The ministry recently donated its 27th quilt. At present, there are no outstanding requests for quilts. The quilters continue their monthly working meeting.

Children and Family Ministries - Sheila Svoboda

- Review of goals and benchmarks

The Children and Family Ministries Committee (comprised of Walter Hayes, Margot Works, Char Mollinaro, Susan Shellito, Erin Spring, Kevin Spring and chaired by Sheila Svoboda) reviewed the goals and benchmarks established with Ministry Architects and were satisfied with the way the program has met them to date. The children's program is growing and events are drawing solid participation.

Erin Spring is at work on charts for goals and benchmarks going forward.

- Tweens

The tweens will be ushering once a month, starting in September. Margot Works is heading up the effort. Tweens have already had a training session.

On August 27: Sheila will invite Tween parents to talk over the activities schedule for the new school year and get them on family calendars.

- Sunday School calendar

2017 was our first year to take Sunday School through Memorial Day. Children's attendance was solid. Getting teachers was a stretch, however.

The recommendation from the Children's and Family Ministry Team is to include Memorial Day in the schedule again this year. Discipleship concurs. (This has a ripple effect, as the adult choir usually follows the same calendar as Sunday School.)

- Nursery Renovations Update.
The renovation is done.
- Update for Room 104 (the room for 4-5-year-olds)
Sheila is asking Properties for permission to update Room 104. A donor has come forward to pay for the update.
- 2017 VBS – Beatitudes (7/10-13)
The 4-day program was very successful, with participation by 43 children, 9 tween and teen helpers, 15 adults. It also came in under budget.
- Farmers’ Market at Will Christy Park on Thursdays (4:00-7:00)
Westminster set up a table there with activities for kids. The VBS program was advertised.
- Rally Day & commissioning of teachers– September 10.
Sheila will announce it in the service on August 27.
- Godly Play and Bible Story Room Open House – October 8
The Bible Story Room (ages 3-K) and the Godly Play Room (1st through 3rd grade) will welcome parents who want to experience a lesson and see the program’s approach to Christian ed.
- Tweens Event at Skyzone – October 8, 11:30-2:00
- Halloween Party – October 28, 3:00-5:00.
The Children and Family Ministry Team suggested we have cartoon characters visit again, as last year.
- Parenting Speaker
The Children’s and Family Ministry discussed the possibility of working with other churches to sponsor a “big name” speaker for this spring. Discipleship is open to the possibility, though no firm decisions were made at this meeting.

Church-Wide Discipleship Events

- Ice Cream Social – August 12, 7:00-8:30
 - Sogbety Diomande is the African drummer providing entertainment.
 - Discipleship will pay the performer (approx.. \$260 with travel)
 - Jon will check to see if Deacons or Discipleship covered the cost of ice cream last year.
 - We will buy 8 buckets of ice cream + toppings.
 - Sheila, Phil, and Marian will set up at 2:30 that afternoon.
 - Sheila will speak to Germaine about filling out a building use form.
- Labor Day Picnic – September 3 after Worship

--The picnic will be on the church grounds this year, rather than at Hardesty Park. Deacons will do set-up / clean-up. Discipleship will provide the main dish (chicken from Showcase Meats). The rest is potluck. Discipleship will organize activities for the kids. Sheila will bring a parachute—Walter and Margot will oversee the games.
--Cost of the 100-piece chicken party pack is about \$100. Lisa will phone in the order and pick it up.

- Presbyterian Pandemonium – November 12
The committee discussed whether this event should be annual or bi-annual. Denise Howell has been in charge in the past, but is no longer on Discipleship. We will need someone else to organize it if we do it this year. If one of the new recruits to Discipleship will head it up, we will go ahead with it for this fall, as the committee feels it is a good way to connect with new members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Eberts Lecture – scheduled for June 2018, with Alex Sider as the speaker.

NEW BUSINESS

- Stewardship lists
The Finance Committee has asked all committees for information that can be used by the Stewardship Committee to show how we have been good stewards, using the church's money wisely and cutting our budgets where possible without affecting our mission. Here are some of Discipleship's efforts:
 - \$75 city parks fee saved by moving the Labor Day picnic to the church
 - Sheila has written the VBS curriculum for the past several years, at a significant savings compared to previous years, when Westminster purchased the curriculum and ready-made materials. The program remains vital and compelling (and better-tailored to the local children it serves than a purchased package).
 - VBS 2017 came in under budget (in addition to savings realized with the home-grown curriculum)
 - Godly Play training for Sunday School teachers paid for itself (we invited teachers from other churches to help share the expenses, drawing enough interest to defray the entire cost of the trainer, her lodging, and travel.)
- New Discipleship member(s)
The committee has lost several members over the last year. Several people were suggested as possible recruits. Jon will contact them about joining Discipleship.
- Oak Hill events.
Jon informed the committee of an open invitation to members of Westminster by Oak Hill Presbyterian Church to join in some of their upcoming trips. We will post the information on the bulletin boards in the entry to Wright-Herberich Hall.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Budget review/discussion – 2018 *balanced* budget is due October 1.
We will discuss the budget at the September meeting.

- Restricted Accounts and Endowments:
Ed reminded the committee that there are several restricted accounts that could fund Discipleship programs:
 - the Young Endowment for Youth, currently at \$6000 (+ funds that accrue)
 - the Youth Fundraising account, currently at \$6000
 - the part of the Pentecost Offering that comes back to the church could be used for programs that meet the guidelines (i.e. if the event deals with issues involving high-risk youth. Last year's program on human trafficking in Ohio is an example.)

Closing Prayer

Next meeting – September 12, 2017 @ 7 p.m.